

PINK SALMON (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) IN NORTHERN NORWAY IN THE YEAR 1960. By Magnus Berg. (*Acta Borealia*; A: Scientia No. 17). Tromsø Museum, Tromsø, Norway. 1961. 24 pp. [In English, Norwegian résumé.]

This is an account of the appearance in Norwegian waters in 1960 of large (sic) numbers of pink salmon from fry released by the Russians. Mention is made also of catches in Iceland and Scotland. Pink salmon catches were reported as far south as Bergen, but were especially great in Finmark. The total catch is estimated at 20,000 to 25,000 kilos.

Unfortunately, there are several features of the account that seem questionable. Although the author states that pink salmon are easily distinguished from other salmon by "little scales and the dark spots on the tail," we note in Figure 2 that the drawing of a pink salmon fry is labeled *O. keta*, and that of a chum salmon, *O. gorbuscha*. The source of the material drawn is not mentioned. The author is apparently unfamiliar with the classification of fishes, since he states concerning Pacific salmon, "None of these fish are the same as the Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*, and they belong to quite another family of fish." The arctic charr, *Salvelinus alpinus*, he calls *Salmo alpinus*, and *tshawytscha* is given the older spelling of *tschawytscha*.

Because most of the fishermen and fish buyers did not separate pink and Atlantic salmon of less than 3 kilograms, his best source of information on catches was from a single firm.

Although numbers of pink salmon undoubtedly were taken in Norway, this reviewer notes either more than one species of Pacific salmon was involved, or these pink salmon differ considerably in both habits and size from their forebears in the Pacific. For example, the author mentions a pink salmon of 3.5 kilos (7.7 pounds) which is extremely large for a pink, the record in the eastern Pacific over many years and millions of fish being around 10 pounds. He states that "The pink were fished with the usual baits, worms, or wet tinbait, or fly. It is a good sporting fish." In regard to this statement and numerous other references to taking of these pink salmon by angling, I would like to mention that I have fished for trout using fish roe, spinners, and wet flies in streams abounding in pink salmon from Unalaska to Puget Sound without taking a single pink salmon. In Lake Superior, however, two pink salmon from a small, recently established run were taken by anglers on earthworms in the estuaries of two tributary streams (Schumacher and Hale, Trans. Am. Fish. Soc., 1962, 91: 421-422). This could be the result of no drastic change in environment such as occurs when salmon leave the ocean to enter a stream. Thus, the pink salmon that were established for a few generations in the Dennys River in eastern Maine during the early 1920's were not taken by anglers fishing the same waters for Atlantic salmon.

The author also states that pinks ascended the river Anarjokka 300 kilometers from the sea. In only a few streams in North America do pink salmon make a comparable journey. The Russians have been transplanting both pink and chum salmon since 1956 and made earlier attempts with chum salmon from 1933

to 1939, leaving considerable doubt in the mind of the reviewer that all of the salmon reported as pinks were in fact pinks.

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